WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Donate

DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

SCHOOLS

No School Choice for Winchester

CHRIS STEVENS | CORRESPONDENT

June 2, 2025 . 6:00 AM — 2 min read

Winchester has once again turned down School Choice during a recent School Committee meeting. COURTESY PHOTO

The trend to not allow non-residents to attend Winchester Schools was continued last week when the School Committee voted unanimo out of School Choice.

Subscribe

"School Choice would essentially allow students who are non-residents to attend Winchester public schools for essentially the state per pupil amount," explained Superintendent Dr. Frank Hackett. "There are many school systems that do it. There are some school systems in the state that depend on it. We've not done it here, to my knowledge, ever."

The state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires districts to take a yearly vote on the issue.

Hackett said he recommended against it primarily because Winchester doesn't have the capacity to allow for more children in the system. He said with the new Lynch School opening in the fall, conditions could change over the next few years but "next year is certainly not the year that we want to be getting into offering school choice."

Hackett added that while Winchester could cap the number of students accepted and limit it to certain grade levels, from a predictable space standpoint, it's not a viable option.

What about down the road?

Earlier this year the UMass Donahue Institute, the public service, research, and economic development arm of the University of Massachusetts, released an updated school enrollment study, which is part of the school's 10-year Facilities Master Plan update.

According to the report, WPS could see an enrollment increase of 246 students on the low end to 326 students on the high end by 2030 and increases of 304 (low) and 403 (high) between now and 2035.

Donate today!

Subscribe

Hackett said at the time the numbers were not a surprise."The study gives us a look at the potential and I think it's a manageable potential," he said.

And while he noted the district never knows for sure what enrollments are going to look like, Hackett said they are on track to have the highest enrollments at the middle and high schools for next year that they've seen since pre-pandemic days.

Which is, again, why he said he recommended opting out of school choice for this year.

Easy vote

The committee, minus Tom Hopcroft who was absent, supported Hackett's recommendation with no discussion.

School Committee member Tim Matthews made the motion to opt out "given the unpredictability of our space constraints with an elementary school which is still yet to open."

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

Related

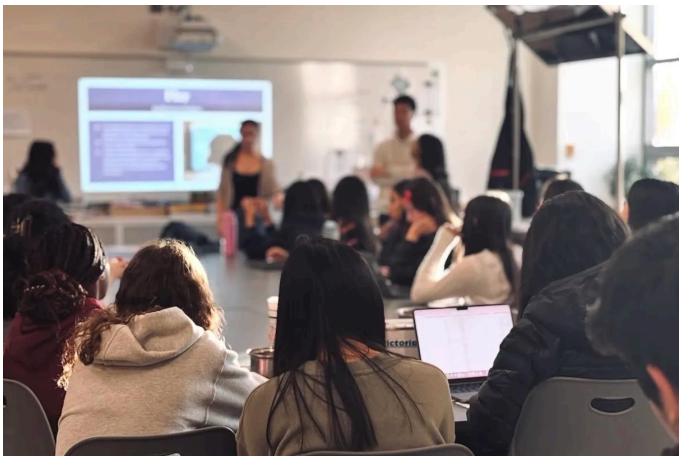
Subscribe

SCHOOLS

Winchester High School club hopes art contest will foster interest in Black history, culture

When then-freshman Christie Clark approached Carson Sarpong about becoming a co-founder for her club, Black Student Union, he was hesitant. Three years later, Sarpong is the president, and the club has organized the Black History Project, a contest that invites students to create art about Black history and culture. The

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT
February 5, 2026



SCHOOLS

Winchester High School's speech and debate team sees a meteoric rise

Winchester's speech and debate team, like most things, began with only a handful of students competing in its inaugural year and receiving little attention from the school. Yet now, what began as a modest club for fun, has grown into something significant and respected by the entire Massachusetts debate

XIYUE ERIC HAN | CORRESPONDENT
January 30, 2026

SCHOOLS

Winchester High School Athletic Department reschedules open house for 8th graders

The following was submitted by the Winchester High School Athletics

EVENTS

Winchester High School Black Student Union launches 'Black History Project' cont community showcase

Subscribe

Department: On Monday, Feb. 2, the Winchester High School Athletics Department will be hosting its rescheduled open house night for 8th graders from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Come to an informational meeting, meet the coaches, learn

January 27, 2026

The following was submitted by the Black Student Union at Winchester High School: The Black Student Union (BSU) at Winchester High School (WHS) is proud to announce the launch of the Black History Project, a contest designed to foster education, research, and creative expression surrounding Black history and culture. The

January 14, 2026

Latest

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

Subscribe

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

Subscribe

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe